Studies

**A genetic link between risk for Alzheimer's disease and severe COVID-19 outcomes via the OAS1 gene**

A study published in *Brain* has found a link between genetic risk for Alzheimer’s disease and susceptibility to critical illness with COVID-19 centred on OAS1, a finding with potential implications for future treatments of Alzheimer’s disease and COVID-19, and development of biomarkers to track disease progression.

**Anticoagulant prescribing for atrial fibrillation and risk of incident dementia**

Incident electronic health record recorded dementia and mild cognitive impairment were less common among patients prescribed direct oral anticoagulants for new atrial fibrillation compared with those prescribed vitamin K antagonists.

**Shingles, Zostavax vaccination and risk of developing dementia: a nested case–control study—results from the UK Biobank cohort**

This study found that a history of shingles was not associated with an increased risk of dementia. In subjects who were eligible for the immunisation and vaccinated with Zostavax, there was a reduced risk of developing dementia.

**Performing arts for dementia carers: feasibility and acceptability of a new multi-modal intervention**

Review of a study of a new multi-modal performing arts intervention programme for carers of people with dementia, which suggests this approach is feasible and acceptable.

Cochrane Clinical Answer

**What are the benefits and harms of withdrawing cholinesterase inhibitors in people with dementia?**

For people with mild to severe dementia, moderate-certainty evidence shows that withdrawing cholinesterase inhibitors probably severely worsens their long-term (≥ 12 months) cognitive function and functional status, with minimal to no important difference in neuropsychiatric status. The evidence for shorter follow-up is similar to that for long-term effects but is more uncertain.